

# History of the United States II : 1865 to the Present

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## Description of the Examination

The Subject Examination in History of the United States II: 1865 to the Present covers material that is usually taught in the second semester of what is often a two-semester course in United States history. The exam covers the period of United States history from the end of the Civil War to the present, with the majority of questions on the twentieth century.

The exam contains approximately 120 questions to be answered in two separately timed 45-minute sections.

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## Knowledge and Skills Required

Questions on the exam require candidates to demonstrate one or more of the following abilities.

- Identification and description of historical phenomena (about 45 percent of the exam)
- Analysis and interpretation of historical phenomena (about 45 percent of the exam)
- Comparison and contrast of historical phenomena (about 10 percent of the exam)

The subject matter of the History of the United States II exam is drawn from the following topics.

### Approximate Percent of Examination

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| 35% | Political institutions and behavior and public policy |
| 25% | Social developments                                   |
| 10% | Economic developments                                 |
| 15% | Cultural and intellectual developments                |
| 15% | Diplomacy and international relations                 |

About one-third of the questions deal with the period from 1865 to 1914, and about two-thirds are on the period from 1915 to the present. The following are among the specific topics tested.

- The motivations and character of American expansionism
- The content of constitutional amendments and their interpretations by the Supreme Court
- The changing nature of agricultural life
- The development of American political parties
- The emergence of regulatory and welfare-state legislation

- The intellectual and political expressions of liberalism, conservatism, and other such movements
- Long-term demographic trends
- The process of economic growth and development
- The changing occupational structure, nature of work, and labor organization
- Immigration and the history of racial and ethnic minorities
- Urbanization and industrialization
- The causes and impacts of major wars in American history
- Major movements and individual figures in the history of American arts and letters
- Trends in the history of women and the family